

Message Text

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NO. 12 FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES LEAD EDITORIAL
THURSDAY MARCH 31 HEADED "IT'S STILL A SPRINGTIME OF
DIPLOMACY."

2. DESPITE YESTERDAY'S CHILL WIND FROM MOSCOW, THIS IS A
SPRINGTIME IN AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. A NEW PRESIDENT AND A
NEW SPIRIT HAVE PRODUCED A THAW IN ATTITUDES TOWARD VIET-
NAM, PANAMA, MUCH OF AFRICA AND NOW CUBA. THEY HAVE
TURNED THOUGHTS TO NEXT STEPS WITH CHINA, TO NEW NEGOTIA-
TIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO REPAIR OF THE INSTITUTIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND, ABOVE ALL, TO CONTROL
OF THE ARMS RACE.

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3. IT IS A SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY, A CHANCE TO BREAK AWAY
FROM THE HOSTILITIES OF THE PAST, AND IT WILL NOT RECUR
IN THE CARTER YEARS. THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THIS AND
HE HAS SHREWDLY CLAIMED THE ADVANTAGE OF HIS FRESHNESS IN
AMERICAN POLITICS AND ON THE WORLD SCENE. HE MUST PERSIST
EVEN IF THE RUSSIANS FEEL TEMPORARILY CHALLENGED RATHER
THAN CHARMED BY THE VIGOR IN WASHINGTON.

4. THE CHANCES ARE THAT MR. BREZHNEV'S REJECTION YESTERDAY OF MR. CARTER'S APPROACH TO THE NEXT ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT REPRESENTED A NARROW TACTICAL JUDGMENT BY THE SOVIET LEADERS. THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY DECIDED THAT A QUICK AGREEMENT OMITTING THE NEWEST AMERICAN WEAPONS SYSTEM--THE CRUISE MISSILE--WOULD BE TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. THE PRESIDENT'S ALTERNATIVE, OF AN EQUALLY QUICK BUT SIGNIFICANT LIMITATION ON BOTH NEW AND OLD WEAPONS, PROBABLY STRUCK THEM AS TOO MUCH TOO SOON. AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT MISCALCULATE THE DURATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HIGH STANDING AT HOME AND POWER TO PUSH A MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT THROUGH THE SENATE, THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO TEST HIS REACTION TO A FIRST REFUSAL. THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEGUN, NOT COLLAPSED.

5. IF THE SOVIET REACTION REFLECTS A DEEPER RESENTMENT, AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER EXERTIONS, SO BE IT. TIME WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT THE AMERICAN INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL EXCEEDS ALL OTHER INTERESTS AND THEY WILL BE RECIPROCATED IF SOVIET INTERESTS COINCIDE. THAT IS BECAUSE IN BOTH NATIONS THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS TOUCH UPON FEARS THAT OVERRIDE ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC AMBITIONS. AND MOSCOW WILL SURELY COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE PURSUIT OF THOSE OTHER GOALS, THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO REESTABLISH THE AMERICAN REPUTATION AND INFLUENCE WHERE HE CAN; THAT IS WHAT NEW PRESIDENTS ARE FOR.

6. WITH OR WITHOUT PROGRESS IN THE ARMS TALKS, THE
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UNITED STATES NEEDS TO RESTORE ITS DIPLOMATIC REACH TO ALL PARTS OF THE GLOBE. THAT ALONE JUSTIFIES THE NEW LOOK AT THE STRUGGLING REGIMES OF AFRICA AND THE SCHEDULED TALKS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM. IT IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING THAT GOOD PROGRESS IS REPORTED FROM THE REVIVED TALKS WITH CUBA, WHICH SHOULD BE PRESSED BEYOND FISHING AND MARITIME AGREEMENTS TO THE SUBJECT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES.

7. FIDEL CASTRO HAS MADE IT PLAIN FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS THAT HE SEEKS TO REDUCE HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE RUSSIANS AND TO ESCAPE THE TYRANNY OF A ONE-CROP SUGAR ECONOMY WITH INDUSTRIALIZATION. HE CANNOT ACHIEVE THIS ORIGINAL DREAM OF HIS REVOLUTION WITHOUT HARD CURRENCY, WHICH IS BEST OBTAINED BY SELLING US THE NICKEL WE NEED TO BUY.

8. THE UNITED STATES, IN TURN, CAN PROFIT BY A DEMONSTRATION OF MATURITY TOWARD THE CUBANS, WHOSE THREAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXAGGERATED IN AMERICAN MINDS AND WHOSE

HOSTILITY HAS NEVER BEEN ALTOGETHER UNPROVOKED. NORTH AMERICAN CAPITALISM HAS SURVIVED THE CASTRO BOMBAST AND

LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT HAS SHOWN HIM TO BE LARGELY IRRELEVANT. THAT THE CUBANS NOW SEE AFRICA AS AN OUTLET FOR SOME OF THEIR FRUSTRATIONS IS ONLY AN ADDED REASON FOR GIVING THEM ALTERNATIVE CHANNELS OF EXPRESSION.

9. THE LARGE CUBAN COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES CAN PROFIT FROM RENEWED CULTURAL TIES WITH ITS FORMER HOMELAND. MR. CASTRO'S MEDDLING IN PUERTO RICO CAN PROBABLY BE STOPPED IN A NEW RELATIONSHIP. THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA CAN PERHAPS BE ADVANCED. NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SHOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE CONFUSED WITH MORAL OR EVEN POLITICAL APPROVAL. IF AMERICAN POWER AND INFLUENCE ARE TO COUNT FOR THE MAXIMUM IN WORLD AFFAIRS, THEY NEED TO BE IMPLANTED IN FRESH SOIL. THAT IS WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SPRINGTIMES ARE FOR. (END TEXT.)
CHRISTOPHER

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